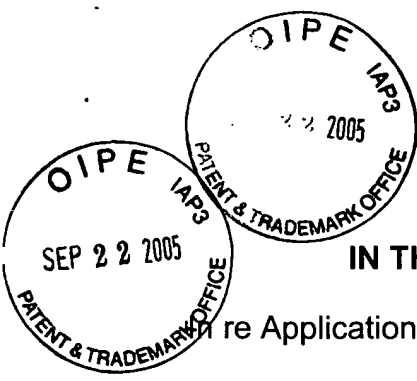


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PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 3180.0327

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re Application of:

KAZUYA FUKUHARA, ET AL.

Application No.: 10/615,228

Filed: July 9, 2003

For: INSPECTION METHOD AND A
PHOTOMASK

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)
) Group Art Unit: 1756
)
) Examiner: C. Young
)
) Confirmation No.: 8398
)
)
)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents on the attached listing. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed foreign and non-patent literature documents are attached.
Copies of the U.S. patent publications are not enclosed.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

In lieu of a statement of relevance or translation of the non-English document, a Search Report issued by the Netherlands Patent Office in a counterpart Netherlands application, dated July 26, 2005, citing the document and setting forth the relevance thereof is enclosed. In addition, an English-language abstract is provided.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicants reserve the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

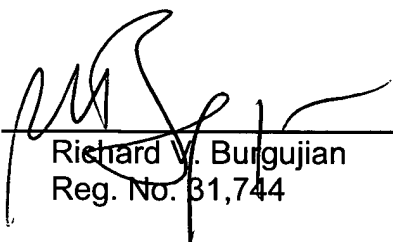
Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

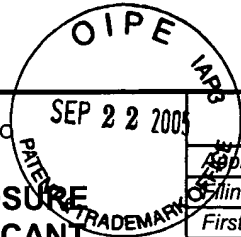
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: 9/22/05

By: 
Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744



IDS Form PTO/SB/08: Substitute for form 1449A/PTC

Complete if Known

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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of

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|------------------------|-----------------|
| Application Number | 10/615,228 |
| Filing Date | July 9, 2003 |
| First Named Inventor | Kazuya Fukuhara |
| Art Unit | 1756 |
| Examiner Name | C. Young |
| Attorney Docket Number | 3180.0327 |

U.S. PATENTS AND PUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATIONS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number | Issue or Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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Note: Submission of copies of U.S. Patents and published U.S. Patent Applications is not required.**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | Translation ⁶ |
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| | | JP 6-181167 | 6/28/94 | Canon Inc. | | Abstract |
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | Translation ⁶ |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | Search Report issued by Netherlands Patent Office for Netherlands Application No. 135218, dated July 26, 2005 | |
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Examiner
SignatureDate
Considered

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.